

BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Effective date: March 2026

Important disclaimer

The information in this FAQ is provided for general guidance only. It summarizes key aspects of the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program but does not replace or override the official Terms and Conditions. All applicants must review and comply with the full [Terms and Conditions](#), which govern eligibility, application requirements, selection criteria, and grant obligations. In the event of any discrepancy, the Terms and Conditions will prevail.

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Program Overview

1. What is the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program?

BMO is a strong supporter of the advancement of women-owned businesses. Since 2012, BMO has recognized the achievements and contributions of over 300 recipients through the BMO Celebrating Women Program. In 2020, we evolved to the BMO Celebrating Grant Program to provide an additional source of financial support.

2. What is the primary objective of the program?

Our goal is to recognize 10 women-owned businesses in Canada who are growing the good in their communities with grant funding. Applicants must demonstrate how their for-profit business addresses two (2) to three (3) [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(UN SDGs\)](#). Past recipients include AI health innovators, sustainable apparel designers, clean-energy engineers, education-access platforms, ethical beauty brands, and community-driven service businesses.

3. What does the Grant Package include?

Each Grant will consist of:

- \$10,000 CAD (payable to the Eligible Small Business);
- One (1) BMO Celebrating Women personalized trophy;
- One (1) hour of coaching with a BMO for Women Advocate (currently available to select clients of BMO only);
- Invitation to a BMO webinar series (which will be attended by the Recipients and other individuals as invited by BMO);
- The opportunity to have BMO facilitate memberships in certain organizations and/or advisory boards;
- A profile on [BMOforWomen.com](#) and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion);
- The opportunity to use the 2026 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient badge that can be posted on social media; and
- Invitation for one (1) designated representative of the Recipient to attend the 2026 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Summit in Toronto along with the following (for the purposes of attending the Summit only):
 - (i) one (1) night single occupancy hotel accommodation for a designated representative of the Recipient at a hotel in Toronto to be selected by BMO; and

- (ii) return transportation (economy class) to Toronto for one (1) designated representative of the Recipient from a Canadian location near the designated representative's residence (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion).

The total approximate value of each Grant is up to \$11,700 CAD.

Eligibility

4. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria to apply for a grant.

The Applicant:

- Must be a resident of Canada;
- Must have reached the legal age of majority in their province/territory of residence; and
- Must have the authority to participate in this program on behalf of the business.

The Business:

- Must be 51% or more owned and controlled by individual(s) who self-identify as women or non-binary individual(s);
- Must be a for-profit business that has been in operation selling a product or service for a minimum of two (2) years as of April 2, 2026;
- Must have annual revenue of fifty thousand Canadian Dollars (\$50,000 CAD) or more;
- Must be an active and operational business that lawfully operates in Canada in accordance with all applicable laws, licenses and regulations;
- Must have fifty percent (50%) or more of its annual revenue tied to business sales with Canadian businesses and/or Canadian consumers; and
- Must have its head office or principal place of business located in any province or territory of Canada.

Important Note: Previous recipients of the BMO Celebrating Women Grant are not eligible to participate in the program.

5. Do I have to be a BMO customer to apply?

No, a banking relationship with BMO is not required.

6. I recently incorporated my company but operated as a sole proprietorship before. Am I eligible to apply?

Eligibility is outlined in the program's Terms and Conditions. Generally, if your business has been operating for at least two years as of April 2, 2026, and the nature of the business remains the same, you may qualify. Please review the full [Terms and Conditions](#) for complete details on requirements for applicants and eligible businesses.

Application Process

7. How do I apply?

Access to applications will be available on www.bmoformen.com beginning on April 2, 2026, at 8:00 AM ET. The application form will close on April 23, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET.

8. What information is needed to apply?

The application requires basic details about the business owner(s) and the business. Each applicant must also answer a series of short questions detailing how their business addresses two (2) to three (3) of the [United Nations Sustainability Development Goals](#) and the measurable impact their business is having or expected to have.

9. Do I need to upload supporting documents?

Supporting documents are not required as part of the initial application form. During the selection process, Semi-Finalists will need to provide a short, accessible YouTube video. Recipients will be required to provide relevant documentation to support their applications. Please see the official [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.

10. Can I start my application and finish later?

No, if you leave the screen before submitting your application, your responses will not be saved.

11. Can I apply more than once?

Only one application per business is allowed. If multiple submissions are received, the most recent submission will be considered, and all previous versions will be disregarded.

12. Is there a deadline to apply?

Yes, April 23, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET.

13. Can I make changes after submitting?

No, submissions are final.

14. Can I use AI tools like ChatGPT to help write my application?

No. Applications must be created without the assistance of AI technology. Materials must be written by you and reflect accurate, specific, and verifiable details about your business. Submissions are assessed on substance and impact, not writing style. Any applicant found to have used AI in connection with the application will be disqualified.

After Submission

15. How will I know if my application was received?

After you submit your application, you will see an on-screen confirmation and receive a confirmation email. If you do not see the confirmation email, please check your junk folder and/or firewall settings.

16. When will I hear back about my application status?

All applicants will receive an email update with their application status once every application has been reviewed. Semi-finalists and Finalists will continue to receive email updates after each round of the judging process.

The ten (10) Recipients will be contacted directly by both email and phone in July 2026 with next steps. Please ensure your contact information is accurate and monitor your inbox (including spam/junk folders). If your business uses strict firewalls or email filters, add bmoformen@bmo.com to your safe sender list to avoid missing important updates.

17. How are applications evaluated?

Applications are reviewed in a three-stage process based on weighted criteria. For more information, please refer to the official [Terms and Conditions](#).

18. If I'm selected as a 2026 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient, will I need to travel?

Grant recipients will be invited to attend the 2026 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Summit in the fall. It is an optional two-day in-person event in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada. If you live outside of Toronto, please be prepared for potential travel and ensure you have flexibility in your schedule. If travel is required, details and support will be provided in advance.

19. I wasn't selected. Can I get feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, we cannot discuss or provide feedback on your application.

20. Will my information be used for marketing?

Your information will be used to administer the program in accordance with BMO's Privacy Code. Consent for marketing emails is optional. You may opt out at any time by contacting bmoformen@bmo.com.

21. Who do I contact for questions?

Email bmoformen@bmo.com with subject line "Grant Application – Questions".

Additional Questions

22. What are examples of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that businesses can address?

Examples include goals focused on health and well-being (e.g., digital-health and wellness companies), access to affordable and clean energy (e.g., clean-energy and mobility-tech businesses), responsible consumption and production

(e.g., sustainable fashion or ethical beauty brands), quality education (e.g., scholarship and learning-access platforms), and sustainable cities and communities (e.g., residential services and environmental-education organizations).

For the full list of all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

23. Are non-profits organizations eligible to participate?

No, only for-profit businesses are eligible to participate.

24. What happens if I miss the deadline?

Applications cannot be accepted after 8:00 PM ET on April 23, 2026, at 8:00 PM ET. Late submissions will not be considered. Please ensure that your application is completed and submitted before the deadline.

25. Can I apply if I've previously received a BMO Celebrating Women Grant?

No. Previous grant recipients are not eligible to apply for this program.

Review the official [Terms and Conditions](#) to ensure you meet all the requirements.